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RURAL DISTRICT OF HATFIELD

Interim Annual Medical Report for the year 1948

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To the Chairman and Members of the  
Hatfield Rural District Council.

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I have the honour to submit the annual report on the Health and Sanitary conditions of your district for the year 1948.

I wish to pay tribute to the memory of Dr. J. E. Dickson, D.P.H., Medical Officer of Health until his death in December 1948. He became ill in September 1947, but resumed duties in June 1948. He was, however, still very ill and against his will had to cease work once more in August of that year. He gradually became worse and died in December. His death at an early age was a severe blow and the Council and the community lost a conscientious and able officer, a gentleman whose kindly guidance and advice was ever available to those who sought them.

I should like to express my thanks to the Officers of the Council and their respective staffs for the help they have given me in preparing this report.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

J. F. O'NEILL.

Temporary Medical Officer  
of Health.

Council Offices,  
HATFIELD, Herts.  
September 1949.

# 1. LOCAL STATISTICS:

	<u>1948</u>	Corres- ponding figure for <u>1947.</u>
Area of District ... ..	22,733	
Rateable Value at 31st December ...	£169,760	£175,245
Inhabited houses at 31st December ...	5,780	5,572
The population figure mid-year (Registrar General) .. ...	22,840	22,240

# 2. VITAL STATISTICS:

Number of deaths from all causes ...	176	198
Number of live births: Legitimate ..	389	396
Illegitimate ..	19	18
Number of still births: Legitimate ..	6	10
Illegitimate ..	-	-
Number of deaths under Legitimate ..	15	16
one year: Illegitimate ..	5	1
Live births rate per 1,000 of the population ... ..	17.86	19.83
Still birth rate per 1,000 live and still births .... ..	14.49	23.58
Crude death rate per 1,000 of the population ... ..	7.71	8.90
Death rate of all infants per 1,000 live births ... ..	49.02	41.06
Death rate of all legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births ... ..	38.56	40.40
Death rate of all illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births ..	263.15	54.44
The death rate of all infants for England and Wales was		34.0

Of the 20 infant deaths, 8 were due to prematurity, and 5 to congenital defects, and not preventable.

### 3. INFECTIOUS DISEASES:

	1948	1947	1946	1945
Poliomyelitis ... ..	-	6	1	-
Scarlet Fever ... ..	17	12	14	34
Diphtheria ... ..	-	1	3	1
Whooping Cough .. ...	141	20	22	14
Measles ... ..	180	206	54	354
Erysipelas . ... ..	8	5	2	1
Pneumonia . ... ..	35	22	16	15
Puerperal Pyrexia ... ..	18	29	10	-
Sonne Dysentery ... ..	1	-	-	92
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...	-	-	-	-
Cerebro Spinal Meningitis ...	-	1	1	-
Infective Hepatitis . ...	30	2	-	-
Catarrhal Jaundice . ...	4	2	-	-
Food Poisoning ... ..	1	-	-	-

### 4. DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION:

During the period 1st January - 5th July, 33 children under five years, were immunised and 7 children over five years. 208 re-inforcing injections were given during this period.

### 5. TUBERCULOSIS:

There were 4 deaths from tuberculosis during the year.

	<u>MALE</u>		<u>FEMALE</u>		<u>TOTAL</u>
	<u>Pul:</u>	<u>N-Pul:</u>	<u>Pul:</u>	<u>N-Pul:</u>	
On the register					
at 31/12/47 ...	59	17	35	19	130
Removals ... ..	6	-	4	2	12
Additions ... ..	15	2	9	3	29
On the register					
at 31/12/48 ...	68	19	40	20	147

### 6. SCABIES:

During the period 1st January - 5th July, the following cases were treated:

<u>ADULTS</u>		<u>CHILDREN:</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
<u>Male:</u>	<u>Female:</u>		
4	3	5	12

Sanitary circumstances of the area.

7. SEWERS & SEWER EXTENSIONS:

(a) Parish of Hatfield - Sewage Disposal Arrangements - New Town Area :- The Council's Consulting Engineers were instructed to discuss with the Colne Valley Sowerage Board Engineers the various aspects of the sewage disposal and drainage problems for the New Town Area.

(b) A scheme for laying approximately 1765 ft. of soil sewer in the village of Mill Green was approved.

(c) Parish of North Myms:- The laying of approximately 365 ft. of soil sewer in Bulls Lane, Welham Green, has been completed.

8. SEWAGE DISPOSAL WORKS:

The sewage disposal works at Hatfield, Welham Green, Essendon and Newgate Street Village, have on the whole functioned satisfactorily throughout the year.

A bad sample was obtained from the Newgate Street works, and it was agreed after consultation with representatives of the Lee Conservancy Board and Metropolitan Water Board, to construct a small sand filter to deal with the excess of humus being discharged.

Trouble with the trade effluent from a large Factory has been experienced and strict supervision has been promised by the Company concerned to prevent any injurious liquid finding its way into the sewers.

To serve the new Council Houses at Northaw, and also to take the drainage from the existing houses, the Council are to construct a small sewage disposal plant at an estimated cost of £3,800 excluding the cost of the land.

9. SURFACE WATER DRAINAGE:

Heavy rainstorms in the early summer caused flooding in the Hatfield old town owing, mainly, to the inability of the surface water sewers to deal with the sudden rush of water.

After consultation with the County Surveyor, it was agreed that certain works would be carried out to improve existing conditions.

The whole position is to be reviewed when a major scheme, covering the area will have to be considered, to provide for the New Town surface water drainage.

10. WATER SUPPLIES:

(a) Tylers Causeway - Parish of Hatfield :- The situation with regard to a supply of water to several properties on Tylers Causeway having become very serious, the Council decided that immediate steps be taken to afford an emergency supply of water to the residents concerned.

This was to take the form of a  $1\frac{1}{2}$ " main from the water tower Epping Green belonging to the Hertford R.D. Council and terminating at a standpipe, placed in a suitable position, but arising out of the request to the Barnet Water Co. for consent to the laying of the above supply, the Water Company raised the question of the desirability of considering a permanent extension from Newgate Street Village. It was decided that further inquiries be made of the Water Co. and the Ministry of Health on the possibility of laying in a reasonable time a permanent extension.

(b) Now extensions:- The following extensions to water mains were approved :-

North Myms Parish: a length of approximately 80 yds. to supply a new housing scheme at Little Heath.

Hatfield Parish: A length of approximately 600 yds. to supply a scheme of six houses at Wild Hill.

(c) Industrial:- A Ministry of Health inquiry was held on the application of a firm of manufacturers for a licence to construct a borehole to afford a supply of water to their proposed factory at Welham Green. The Ministry decided on the evidence presented that they would not be justified in issuing a licence to abstract water at the site proposed but would consent to a trial bore, on certain conditions.

11. REFUSE COLLECTION:

(a) A fortnightly collection is being maintained throughout the area. The parishes of Hatfield and Essendon are covered by the Council's own staff and the other two parishes by Contract.

(b) Refuse Dump - Herts County Council Act 1935:- Application to use a disused gravel pit situated near Panshanger as a dump for dry rubbish was agreed. It was also agreed that no objection be raised to the East Barnet U.D. Council depositing house refuse on land at Holwell Hyde, owned by Messrs Inns & Co.

(c) Now Refuse collecting vehicles:- The Council approved the purchase of two Dodge Refuse Collecting Vehicles.



12. **CESSPOOL EMPTYING:-** There are approximately 450 cesspools in the district and the Council operate a cleansing service, using a 750 gallon machine. Two free emptyings are given each year with a greater number in areas where the provision of main drainage has been hold up or presents special difficulty. The number of cesspools cleansed during the year was 489.

A new machine was purchased during the year.

13. **WATER:-** The main supply to the district is provided by the Barnet District Gas and Water Company. Regular sampling showed that a very high standard of bacterial and chemical priority was maintained.

14. **HOUSING:-** Work proceeded in effecting improvements to properties in respect of which complaints had been made. Statutory action was not found to be necessary.

Defects noted as a result of the Rural Housing Survey were remedied at 277 houses.

15. **RODENT CONTROL:-** Control of rats and mice was carried out by the Hertfordshire County Council, acting on complaints made direct to them and also on complaints (23) received by this office.

16. **DISINFECTIONS:-** 39 disinfections were carried out following infectious disease.

17. **DISINFESTATIONS:-** Eradication of bed-bugs was carried out at seven houses, and other disinfestations included fleas, flies, wasps and ants.

Mosquito control work was carried out at the Great Wood, Northaw.

18. **FOOD: -**

(a) Milk : 140 samples were taken of milk produced in this district and of these, 119 passed and 21 failed. Samples of heat-treated milk showed the treatment to be effective in 11 cases out of 12.

(b) Inspection of Food Premises:- Supervision of premises preparing and handling food was maintained and improvements effected by informal action.

(c) Unsound Food: 78 visits were made for the purpose of inspecting meat and other foods, and the following is a list of foods surrendered as unfit for human consumption :-



Butchers Meat

	<u>Weight</u>
Beef	434 lbs.
Bacon	71

Tinned Foods

Corned Beef	239
Corned Mutton	24
Other Meats	39
Bacon	31
Fish	17
Soup	14
Vegetables	241
Fruit	48
Jam	128
Puddings	2
Milk	53

Other Foods

Eggs	86
Dried Milk	63
Butter	6
Kippers	14
Luncheon Loaf	10
Sugar	4
Sweets	4
Flour	6
Pudding Mixture	43
Oatmeal	17
Breakfast Cereals	27
Prunes	25
Nut Kernels	800
Sago	140

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Total                      2,500 lbs

19. ICE-CREAM: Standards for premises were prepared as a basis for work in connection with the Ice-Cream Regulations. A meeting of traders was called so that their responsibilities could be freely discussed. The meeting was well attended and it is a pleasure to report the full co-operation of all concerned.
20. FOOD AND DRUGS ACT: The following details are supplied by the Weights & Measures Department of the Hertfordshire County Council and relate to samples from this district taken by their Officers in 1948 :-

	<u>No. procured</u>	<u>Genuine.</u>	<u>Not Genuine</u>
Milk	23	22	1 x
Meat Paste	1	1	-
Plum & Strawberry Jam	1	1	-
Table Dessert	1	1	-
Forcemeat	2	2	-
Scone Mixture	1	1	-
Maple Butter Pudding			
Mixture	1	-	1 ø

x Milk 6% deficient in fat - Vendor cautioned

ø Maple Butter Flavour - No action

21. FOOD POISONING: The one case of food poisoning notified during the year was not connected with any food consumed in the district. The patient had eaten egg-sandwiches prepared for his journey from Carlisle, where he had been on holiday. He had also eaten at a road-side cafe at Horley, Sussex, on his indirect route back, and was seen to be ill on arrival at Hatfield. The appropriate authorities were notified.

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